

STATINTL

## DODD CUTS CLAIMS AGAINST PEARSON

### 10 of 14 Charges Dropped in Senator's Libel Suit

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WASHINGTON, May 26 — Senator Thomas J. Dodd today dropped all but four of the original 14 claims for damages in his three-week-old libel and conspiracy suit against Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, the Washington columnists.

Senator Dodd also reduced his claim for compensatory and punitive damages from \$5-million to \$2-million. The Connecticut Democrat said he was acting "to insure a trial at the earliest possible date."

In a statement, the columnists called the surprise move "an indirect admission that Dodd did accept compensation from companies for which he did favors and that he did pocket the proceeds from campaign dinners."

Allegations that Senator Dodd had done these things were the principal libel issues in the sections of the complaint dropped today.

#### Early Trial Called Goal

However, in an affidavit filed with the United States District Court today, John F. Sonnett, Senator Dodd's chief counsel, said that the sole reason for reducing the libel complaint to what he called the "hard core" issues was to expedite trial with the hope of getting the case before a judge by July. To this end, Mr. Sonnett today waived Senator Dodd's right to a jury trial.

In a related development, it was reported that James P. Boyd Jr., Senator Dodd's former administrative assistant, had admitted under oath that he had helped to supply Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson with "some of" the 2,000 photocopies of the Senator's personal and official files on which the columnists have said they based their disclosures.

Included in the sections dropped were all of Mr. Dodd's claims for libel damages relating to published accusations by the columnists that he had done as follows:

"Pocketed" political campaign contributions and converted to his personal use the proceeds of Connecticut fundraising dinners, without paying the required income tax.

Accepted the long-term loan of an air-conditioned mobile from Dunbar A. Inc., a Connecticut contractor,

Was nearly "thrown off" the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year — according to the columnists — "the fact that Dodd had conspired with Gen. Julius Klein, a registered agent for West German interests" while serving as a member of the committee.

Did favors, in his capacity as a Senator, for various American corporations and for the Government of South Korea.

Repeating other charges in the original May 6 pleading, the revised libel and conspiracy complaint said that Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson had "conspired with" and "aided and abetted" former employees of Senator Dodd's Washington office to obtain photocopies of the Senator's personal and official files.

#### Malice Linked to Authors

The amended complaint also contended that the columnists, authors of the widely syndicated column, "Washington Merry-Go-Round," had "falsely and maliciously" reported that in return for "expensive gifts," Senator Dodd had improperly advanced the private interests of Mr. Klein, a retired Army Reserve major general who is a registered foreign agent for the West German Government.

Mr. Klein is president of Julius Klein Public Relations Inc., of Chicago.

The new complaint also repeated the original contention that the Pearson-Anderson charges that Senator Dodd had acted in 1961 "in cooperation with" Michael Struelens, then a registered foreign agent of the Congolese province of Katanga, "were false, as defendants knew or should have known."

As a result of allegations of misconduct reported in more than 30 Pearson-Anderson columns published since January, Senator Dodd is under investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee, the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The ethics committee formally the Senate Select Committee on Standards and Conduct, is expected to begin open hearings on the Dodd-Klein allegations of the columnists during June.

#### Admission Is Denied

Robert X. Perry, Senator Dodd's administrative assistant, denied that the elimination of some of the counts in the libel complaint was "either a direct or indirect admission" of the Pearson-Anderson charges. He said the dropped counts would not be raised again later, however.

"We want to show the court that we really want to streamline the libel suit and get with an early trial," Mr. Perry said.

The report that Mr. Boyd, for 12 years Senator Dodd's administrative assistant and close associate, had admitted playing a role in obtaining photocopies that brought to Mr. Pearson

and Mr. Anderson thousands of photocopies of the Senator's office files, came after a day-long interrogation of Mr. Boyd in the offices of Jahn, Gordon, Reindel and Ohl, Senator Dodd's law firm.

Mr. Boyd, 37-years-old, appeared under subpoena to give a pretrial deposition to Mr. Sonnett. Also present at the closed session were Mr. Anderson, who was entitled to be there as a defendant, and John Donovan and Warren Woods, attorneys for Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson told newsmen afterwards that, under questioning by Mr. Sonnett, Mr. Boyd had sworn that he had given the columnists copies of "some of" the 2,000 Dodd documents reported to be in their hands.

#### Report Not Challenged

According to Mr. Anderson, Mr. Boyd testified that he had been aided in procuring the documents by other former members of Senator Dodd's staff, including Miss Marjorie A. Carpenter, Mr. Dodd's former personal secretary, Michael V. O'Hare, a former special assistant and Miss Terry L. Golden, a former staff secretary.

Outside the law office, Mr. Boyd declined to comment on the questioning, other than to say that it had "gone well." But he did not challenge Mr. Anderson's account of it, read from notes.

Mr. Sonnett said later that he would not confirm or deny Mr. Anderson's report of the day's questioning. "I have nothing to say," was his angry comment. He had earlier been denied a court order to seal the transcript of the Boyd deposition and others, including a pending one of Senator Dodd.

With Mr. Boyd standing nearby, Mr. Anderson also told newsmen that Mr. Boyd had testified that "last spring" he had dictated to the columnist's secretary "about 50 cases of what in my judgment, were examples of misconduct by Senator Dodd."

In their column of last April 25, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Anderson asserted that their sources of Senator Dodd's documents had been "clean-cut, young men and women who believe Senators are not above the law, and that it should not be against the law to document

corruption charges against a United States Senator."

Mr. Boyd and the other former Dodd staff members he was reported to have identified today already have given lengthy statements to the Senate ethics committee and the F.B.I. Mr. Boyd is to resume his testimony tomorrow.